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ERNIE V. GARCIA

City Manager

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DIV. OF HOUSING  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT HCD



**City of**  
**NORWALK**

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September 7, 2005

Housing Policy Division  
California Department of Housing and Community Development  
1800 3rd Street  
P.O. Box 952053  
Sacramento, CA 94252-2053

RE: General Plan Annual Report

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed herewith, please find a copy of the City of Norwalk's General Plan Annual Report as required by Government Code Section 65400(b).

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 929-5775.

Sincerely,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Planning Division

Bing H. Hyun,  
Planning Manager

Attachment

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
**2004-2005 GENERAL PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
PLANNING DIVISION**

**October 1, 2005**

local circulation needs, while balancing those needs with regional demands and mandates.

The City of Norwalk currently participates in local and regional transportation planning and decision-making by implementing and conforming with the guidelines of the Los Angeles County Congestion Management Plan and the Los Angeles County Master Plan of Arterial Highways.

Through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the City continues to make a variety of improvements to its existing network of public streets (e.g., street resurfacing, sidewalk repair, American Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) compliance, etc.). In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, several residential areas throughout the City were repaved and had curb and gutter repairs, which were administered through the Local Street Overlay and the Curb and Gutter Repair Programs. Some of the residential areas that were targeted by these programs were: north of Alondra Boulevard, south of Excelsior, to the east of the City limits and west of Pioneer Boulevard; and north of Excelsior Drive, south of Rosecrans Avenue, east of Pioneer Boulevard and west of Bloomfield Avenue.

Another the street improvement that was completed in fiscal year 2004-2005 through the CDBG Alley Rehabilitation Program was the repaving of deteriorated alleyways with concrete near the corner of Norwalk Boulevard and Alondra Boulevard. In addition a traffic signal upgrade was made on the intersection of Firestone Boulevard Imperial Highway.

Other street improvements (e.g., street dedications, street widening, sidewalk construction, deceleration lanes, etc.) are funded and built by developers as part of their conditions of approval for developing their property. In addition, developers are responsible for paying their "fair share" of the cost to mitigate anticipated traffic impacts associated with new development in the City.

In addition to conducting street and circulation improvements, the City also provides a local transit operator for the community, which provides fixed-route and paratransit service since 1974. Norwalk Transit System (NTS) utilizes twenty-two (22) heavy-duty vehicles and four Dial-A-Ride vans; continues to provide connector shuttle bus service between the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center and the Metro Green Line Studebaker Station in Norwalk. Presently, Metrolink (commuter rail service between Orange County and Los Angeles) provides weekday train service to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center. This rail feeder service implemented by Norwalk Transit provides direct interconnectivity between rail stations (Metrolink-commuter rail and Metro Green Line-light rail).

**Housing** – In a continuing effort to provide housing assistance within the community, the City of Norwalk has the Norwalk Housing Authority and a CDBG Program Section. The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), which is a separate legal entity established in 1976, assists lower income families to secure decent, safe, and sanitary housing at affordable prices. The Housing Authority administers the ongoing Section 8 Certificate and Housing Voucher Programs. The federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has the responsibility of administering a wide range of programs whose objective is to provide housing in a sound environment, principally for

The Home Investment Partnership (HOME), administered by the Community Development CDBG Division, also provides a variety of resources to assist elderly, low-income residents, in addition to the City's special needs population. For the fiscal year 2004-2005, the HOME Repair Program has assisted 19 low-income residents as of June 30, 2005 by providing needed residential repairs in addition to necessary handicap accessibility improvements. During October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005, 18 housing units have been constructed.

**Conservation** – The Conservation Element of the Norwalk General Plan is intended to provide for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources (e.g., water, minerals, energy sources etc.). Since the City of Norwalk is a completely urbanized community, there are limited natural resources that can be conserved and/or developed. However, conservation of existing resources from contamination and providing adequate mitigation measures to ensure that new development does not adversely impact the existing environment is being routinely achieved.

In the on-going effort to improve water quality and eliminate pollutant discharges into municipal storm drains and underground aquifers, the Engineering Division is currently responsible for city compliance with the Federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Through the Capital Improvement Program, the City has taken some measures to ensure the conservation of water. Some of these measures include upgrading the existing water treatment system that eliminates contaminants from the water system by converting the existing oil lube well to a water lube well to ensure compatibility, replacing drainage at the public services bays within the existing sewer system and replacing deteriorated equipment such as water tanks, valves and piping within the existing water system.

Program activities to ensure the conservation of natural resources include interagency coordination with local and regional agencies, annual inspection and monitoring of the open channels and the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) for public construction projects.

**Open Space** – The City's Open Space Element is primarily dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the City's remaining open space. These areas are generally located within public parks, schools, and developed greenbelts. Currently, the City is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 129 acres of park grounds, sixteen (16) baseball diamonds and the Aquatic Pavilion.

The Recreation and Park Services Department completed some enhancements to Holifield Park and Vista Verde Park through the Capital Improvement Program. The renovations at Holifield Park include new public restrooms, a snack bar, and a meeting room. The renovations at Vista Verde Park include renovating the playground area by installing new playground equipment, sodded turf, concrete sidewalks and an irrigation system.

**Noise** – The Noise Element of the General Plan is dedicated to protecting the community from excessive noise. The City recognizes that there are two major categories of noise sources, mobile and stationary. Because the City is located along

architectural style, scale, massing and building orientation are important design features associated with any new development, particularly, when a project design may impact the surrounding physical environment. Hence, the City takes into account all such design considerations during the development review process for all projects that require discretionary approval. Therefore, through the Community Design Element of the General Plan, the City of Norwalk has continued to promote and obtain aesthetically attractive, quality developments throughout the City.

**Educational and Cultural Resources** – Educational and Cultural Resources is another new element that was added in the 1996 General Plan update. The purpose of the element is to maintain and enhance the quality of education within the community and provide a sense of community identity through the preservation and expansion of the City's cultural facilities, programs, and services. At present, Norwalk's educational resources include a Community College and two public school districts that serve twenty-seven (27) schools ranging from elementary through high school level. The City's cultural resources include two public libraries (e.g. the Norwalk Regional Library and the Alondra Library), and the Cultural Arts Center, which is located at the Arts and Sports Complex. In addition, there are 11 parks throughout the City, which are sources of educational and cultural activities for Norwalk residents. There are also several historic resources within the community such as the Sproul Museum, the Paddison Ranch Buildings, the Darius David Johnston House, and the Front Street Buildings that celebrate the City's historic past during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Norwalk has continued to promote and support its educational and cultural resources through continued community involvement and public awareness activities.

**Utility Infrastructure** – The City's new Utility Infrastructure Element, adopted during the 1996 General Plan update, is intended to ensure that adequate utility levels (e.g., water, sewer, storm drains, natural gas, electricity, etc.) are provided within the City to meet Norwalk's current and future needs. During the past year, the City has continued to maintain all existing utility infrastructure and enhance its functional longevity to maximum performance.

## **CONCLUSION**

The 2004-2005 General Plan Annual Progress Report is the sixth annual report on the implementation status of the Norwalk General Plan. To date, staff believes the City has continued to faithfully implement the City's 1996 General Plan as the actions, plans, programs and projects documented in this report represent the City's commitment to achieve the goals and objectives set fourth in the ten (10) elements of the Norwalk General Plan.